

COAL STRIKE NEAR AS OFFICIALS LOSE HOPE TO AVERT IT

Government Overtures for Conference Between Operators and Miners Fail.

AMPLE SUPPLY ON HAND, ACCORDING TO SURVEY

U. S. Not Expected to Intervene Unless Welfare of Public Is Menaced.

Government officials were represented today as being without hope that the threatened coal strike can be averted or that the proposed conference between the operators and miners would be arranged. It was indicated that government intervention, at least in the preliminaries of the situation, was practically at an end.

Holding that a strike the first of April is almost inevitable, government officials, according to the view presented today on high authority, now are chiefly interested in seeing that a sufficient supply of coal is maintained for the country as a whole.

Ten Weeks' Supply.

The situation with respect to a sufficient supply of coal, it was stated on the same authority, is not acute, because there now is at the surface of coal mines and in stock at consuming centers enough coal to last the country for ten weeks, with the prospects, it was added, that this supply will be augmented by production from non-striking mines and from operations in other territories, which, Department of Labor reports show, are covered by distinct settlements between the operators' union and local associations of mine operators.

Not to Force Conference.

It was intimated that the government did not propose to enter upon any attempt to force a conference between the operators and the miners, by legal or other means.

Secretary of Labor Davis has gone as far as he intended to go in that direction, it was said, by repeatedly and publicly pointing out that the government considers the mine operators' union as a competitor, and that it is bound by provisions of the existing national wage contract to enter negotiations for making a substitute agreement, but that it will not apply April 1, when the old one expires.

If operators will not accept this viewpoint, it was said, the government cannot interfere until the strike develops, and then only in the event that it becomes seriously menaced public welfare.

Many operators in the semi-confidential exchanges with the Labor Department were said to be taking the position that the wage contract provisions with respect to its renewal no longer bind them, and that of local or district actions by the miners' union which they claim to be within the purview of the contract. Government officials, in correspondence and conference have challenged this argument on the ground that while the facts may be as represented by the operators, the contract generally has been allowed to stay in effect.

If the violations complained of have not been sufficiently serious, officials declared, to induce the mine operators to accept the new contract, the entire provisions of the contract would be null and void, and they should now continue to respect it.

Comment was withheld today upon the possibility of the operators' union might be drawn into the struggle after April 1, but there were intimations that the government's agents did not consider this an imminent factor in the situation.

Government Well Supplied.

In case the strike shuts off supplies of fuel, Washington will be in condition to weather it out until warm weather, in the opinion of leading coal men of the city.

The government fuel yards and all government buildings and power plants have an overstock of coal on hand for this time of year, G. S. Pope, chief engineer of the government fuel yards, said today. "We are in excellent shape," he said, "in that the coal situation in preparation for the strike was similar to that in 1919, when that coal strike threatened. There was a large supply of coal on hand, and the government was well supplied with coal, which is much larger than the government would have here during an ordinary year. We have prepared for emergencies in case there is a strike," Mr. Pope declared.

Usually heating plants are cut off with the advent of warm weather, somewhere in the month of May, Mr. Pope said, adding that if the strike should be some earlier spillover of warmer temperature it would be possible to continue to use the coal already in bin, and that if summer should come early, there would be further possibility of letting the fire go out sooner than usual. But in case the chill continued into late spring, he asserted, the government department heating power plants or school would suffer.

While the public was not found to be particularly concerned with the margin discovered in the government buildings, it was believed that many householders would be ready to appeal to the public to carry the burden of the risk, pointing out that if the merchants should stock

(Continued on Page 2, Column 4.)

Banker Takes Abused, Penniless Girl To Fill Dead Daughter's Place.

CHICAGO, March 13.—Victoria Kleny, sixteen years old, is a modern Cinderella today, because she resembles the dead daughter of a Chicago banker. Victoria, who was found crying on the street and said she had been beaten and turned out of her home, was taken to a home for homeless children, where she was given a new name, stepped into a motor car and soon found herself wearing fine slippers and clothing of whose value her father, the now Victoria at a detention home.

PRICE OF GAS CUT FROM \$1.10 TO \$1.05 FOR HOME USERS

Similar Five-Cent Cut Ordered for Consumers on Wholesale Rates.

The price of gas to all private households in the District was cut from \$1.10 to \$1.05 per thousand cubic feet by the Public Utilities Commission today.

A similar cut of 5 cents per thousand cubic feet was made in the several steps of wholesale rates as follows: For users of between 50,000 and 200,000 cubic feet a month, \$1 per thousand cubic feet; between 200,000 and 500,000, 95 cents; between 500,000 and 800,000, 90 cents; and all over 800,000, 85 cents.

Cites Government's Rates.

The commission calls attention in its order to the low rates allowed the federal and District governments for gas and states that had the two governments paid the regular wholesale rate for the gas they used during 1921 the rate to private consumers could have been reduced by 3.21 cents per thousand cubic feet.

The commission points out that the question of these preferential rates to the local and national governments has been called to the attention of Congress, but that thus far no action has been taken.

The price of gas for street lighting is approximately 30 cents per thousand cubic feet and for gas in government buildings 70 cents per thousand. The commission has no power to change these rates.

Order of Commission.

The commission's order reads in part as follows:

"The companies submitted at this hearing a combined statement of actual operations for 1921 and estimated operations for 1922 at the present rates. This statement shows that for the year 1921 the companies earned a rate of return of 9.48 per cent on the average fair value of the property, and for 1922 the return is estimated at 6.63.

"In making the gas rates for 1922 the companies have assumed the following increases in the sales of gas over 1921:

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WILL STAND FIRM ON SOLDIER BONUS

House G. O. P. Committeemen to Report Compromise Bill Despite Protests.

Republican members of the House ways and means committee decided at a conference today to stand pat on their determination to report the compromise soldiers' bonus bill, despite objections to its provisions by Secretary Mellon and Controller of the Currency Crispien.

The full ways and means committee would place the bill today for final action on the bill, but this meeting was postponed until tomorrow.

Republican members, however, met and discussed the letter of Secretary Mellon to Chairman Fordney, in which the Treasury head denounced the bill on the ground that it would involve "a dangerous abuse of government credit."

After the conference the republicans said the bill would be reported tomorrow to the House with only slight modifications.

Expected Vote Next Monday.

Representative Mondell, republican leader, said today there had been no change in the plan, which calls for a vote by the House on the bonus bill under suspension of rules next Monday.

One of the amendments agreed to today by the republican members of the ways and means committee reduces from 40 to 25 per cent the added benefit to be paid to the veterans of the bonus bill, which was passed by Congress last year.

This change, it was explained, would place this option on a parity with the certificate provision.

Representative Hawes, democrat, attacked the bonus bill as a "gold brick" scheme by which members of Congress hoped to obtain the votes of former service men. Declaring that the measure "proposes to soothe the alarm of the overburdened taxpayer by a scheme to give a large sum of money to a few men," he asserted that it was a "get rich quick" program which if presented by a presidential candidate would be a "blue sky" law prohibition of every state in the Union.

Calls Bill "Unfortunate Child."

Asserting that as a member of the American Legion he was not bound to support any kind of bill that nine-tenths of the Congress may write, Mr. Hawes further characterized the bill as an "unfortunate child."

"The bill is a child," he said, "and its mother was fright and its name is 'bunk.' The Missouri republican contended.

Representative Oldfield, Arkansas, one of the democratic members of the committee, announced today that at the session tomorrow he would offer amendments, one to reinstate the bill the cash payment feature eliminated by republican members, and the other to levy an excess profits tax as a means of financing the project.

BRITISH SEIZE 2,200 IN AFRICAN REVOLT; SMUTS NEAR DEATH

Bullet Strikes Automobile Carrying Premier—Rebels Driven Back.

CHARGE FOREIGN FUNDS FINANCED REVOLUTION

Capture of Spies and Documents Bares Red Plot With Strike as Cloak.

By the Associated Press.

PRETORIA, Union South Africa, March 13.—Government forces are proceeding with great success against the revolutionists, according to an official communiqué issued today.

The statement says: "The total number of prisoners taken in the operations in the central area is 2,200. Our forces occupied with but slight casualties the high ground around Westville.

"In the eastern area Maj. Gen. Van Deventer's troops forced the revolutionists to retire into Benoni. In the western area our forces reached Krugersdorp (twenty-two miles north-west of Johannesburg), and are now pushing eastward. We have occupied Rietfontein (in British Bechuanaland.)"

Money From Abroad.

LONDON, March 13.—An agency dispatch from Johannesburg says this afternoon says:

"Through the capture of spies and documents it was learned that the money for the 'red revolution' came from abroad.

"It is expected that peace will soon be restored."

It is believed in official circles, the message states, that there will continue to be small setbacks, such as the one which occurred today, but as regards the general result little doubt is felt.

Heavy casualties have been inflicted upon the revolutionaries, in addition to the capture of more than 2,200 of them.

Strike Only Cloak.

Premier Smuts issued a statement today, Reuter's Johannesburg correspondent says, declaring that the present revolutionary movement is the work of extremists who are using the strike at the mines as a cloak for the dissemination of seditious views. The premier declared that the military position is well in hand, and with the co-operation of the loyal citizens who are actively supporting the government, the revolutionaries will be crushed.

Smuts Escapes Assassins.

JOHANNESBURG, Union of South Africa, March 13.—A shot was fired at the automobile containing Gen. Jan Christian Smuts, the premier, today, as he was being driven toward the Rand, near Potchefstroom. The premier was not hurt, although a bullet struck the car.

Gen. Smuts has issued a reassuring statement predicting an early restoration of peace. This prediction seems to be based on the view of the situation in some directions and the rapid concentration of the government forces.

The troops have captured 1,500 revolutionists at Sophiatown and Eriton ridge, besides clearing the neighboring ridges, an important achievement, as the positions were strong and the rebel occupation presented grave menace. Airplanes dropped thirty-two bombs on revolutionists surrounding a party of police in the Eriton area, causing numerous casualties and forcing the rebels to surrender.

The government issued a long communiqué this afternoon, declaring that the operations were proceeding very satisfactorily and that strong forces were rapidly converging.

Belief That the Star's crusade against poisonous and injurious bootleg liquor will be the means of saving the health of the nation.

Belief that the Star's crusade against poisonous and injurious bootleg liquor will be the means of saving the health of the nation, was expressed today by Maj. Sullivan, superintendent of police.

"It certainly will cause some drinkers of liquor to be more careful," he said, "and is so much in the cause of humanity that it should appeal to every citizen. It is the only way of saving human life, it will make some drinkers fearful of what they are buying and will cause them to buy only the purest liquor."

"I am greatly pleased with the Star's campaign against the sale and drinking of poisonous liquor. If the public does not save human life it will be the fault of the bootleggers, certainly have had ample warning."

Inspector Grant, chief of detectives, who has been in contact with many victims of the poisonous fumes, was quoted as saying that many of the victims of the poisonous fumes were men who were drinking bootleg liquor, and that the bootleggers were getting rich by selling the same.

Inspector Grant said he had seen many of the victims of the poisonous fumes, and that they were in a very bad state of health. He said that the bootleggers were getting rich by selling the same.

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POLICE PUSH WAR ON BOOTLEGGERS

Oyster Summons Captains to Map Out Campaign Against Rum-Runners.

Determined to Break up Bootlegging in the National Capital if Possible, Commissioner Oyster, in Charge of Police Affairs, has Summoned the District Captains to Meet with him at the District Building Tomorrow.

After a month's investigation in the Nova Scotia county, where he was lecturing at St. Francis Xavier University when the ghost stories first came from Antigonish, O'Brien said he found that strong wireless currents between the two great radio stations at Wellfleet, Mass., and Glace Bay, N. S., ran through the valley at Colebrook Mills where stands the home of Alex. MacDonald, scene of the eerie events.

House in Danger of Burning.

"The MacDonalds," said O'Brien, "will have to move their house out of range of these powerful radio currents if they wish to avoid the ghostly incidents. If not, the house may be burned down by the effects of electrical currents in fires on ships and on land and you have the solution of the first chapter of the story of Antigonish."

Reporter Slapped Self.

"Whidden slapped his own face when he suddenly woke in a temperature of 25 below zero, and his numb arm became suddenly suffused with good warm blood," O'Brien said.

"Take the map, trace the line, apply your scientific knowledge of wireless operation, study the curious effects of electrical currents in fires on ships and on land and you have the solution of the first chapter of the story of Antigonish."

O'Brien predicted that Dr. Walter Franklin Prince, New York director of the American Society for Scientific Research, who has spent the past week in the "haunted house," would find any other causes of the phenomena.

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Antigonish Ghost Radio Waves, Braided Cow's Tail Girl's Prank

By the Associated Press. BOSTON, March 13.—Edward J. O'Brien, scientist and author, declared today that the ghost of Antigonish was in reality the product of electrical energy.

After a month's investigation in the Nova Scotia county, where he was lecturing at St. Francis Xavier University when the ghost stories first came from Antigonish, O'Brien said he found that strong wireless currents between the two great radio stations at Wellfleet, Mass., and Glace Bay, N. S., ran through the valley at Colebrook Mills where stands the home of Alex. MacDonald, scene of the eerie events.

"The MacDonalds," said O'Brien, "will have to move their house out of range of these powerful radio currents if they wish to avoid the ghostly incidents. If not, the house may be burned down by the effects of electrical currents in fires on ships and on land and you have the solution of the first chapter of the story of Antigonish."

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GOES IN WITHOUT CHANGE. House to Get Senate's Amendment to Retirement Bill Tomorrow.

The Sterling bill which passed the Senate Saturday designed to specifically write into the law the rights to retirement annuity for 80,000 government employees who would be denied retirement pension under a ruling of the Attorney General will be reported to the House tomorrow by Chairman Lehbach of the House committee on reform in the civil service just as it passed the Senate.

Immediate action is required to protect the 6,400 superannuated employees already on the pension list, whose right to receive annuity has been challenged by the decision of the Attorney General. Chairman Lehbach has today been received assurances from the republican leaders that action will be taken on this measure by the House within a week.

U. S. STAND FIRM, DEMANDING SHARE OF BILLION MARKS

Government Not to Let Allies Take All Germany Can Pay for Occupation.

IGNORING OF AMERICA NOT TO BE COUNTENANCED

Charges That U. S. Is Exerting Undue Pressure for Money Called Malicious.

It was stated on highest authority today that the American government does not intend to allow the allies to take all that Germany can pay in reparations and leave nothing for the United States as recompense for expenditures incurred in the occupation of the Rhineland.

This pronouncement of American governmental policy was occasioned by a press dispatch from Paris to the effect that allied governments contemplated deferring payments to the United States for the Rhineland occupation on the ground that the American government had not ratified the treaty of Versailles.

Such a position on the part of the allies, it was stated, would be indefensible, as it could not be maintained for a moment either morally or legally. The further statement was made that under the terms of the Versailles treaty the American forces remained in the Rhineland at the expressed request of the allied governments and there was an explicit agreement that this country should be reimbursed for the cost of keeping its troops on the Rhine.

Should Share Equally. Under the Versailles treaty, it was explained, the cost of occupation of the various allied armies in Germany was made a first charge against war costs assessed upon Germany. It was agreed by the allies, it was said, that the United States should share equally with the allies in those payments, and no technicalities, it was added, should obscure a plain issue.

The United States has been "extremely indulgent" in the matter of payment for its army in Germany, it was said, and intimations in press dispatches of this kind would be characterized as malicious.

The American government has been trying to deal in a most sympathetic manner with the allied financial difficulties, and its request for payment, which was transmitted to the allied finance ministers in London, was based on the fact that the allies would partition the cake of this money among themselves, considering the right of the United States.

It was said that while the United States does not want to create a situation which will be inimical to the best interests of the world, it will stand firm on its rights under the terms of the armistice.

DISMAY IN FRANCE. Disastrous Consequences Seen Following U. S. Demands.

By Cable to The Star and Chicago Daily News. PARIS, March 13.—The claim of the United States government to reimbursement for the expenses of the American army in Germany, made only in Paris, is greeted with a veritable storm of dismay in France. As clearly as can be discerned at present, settlement of this matter would develop the following consequences:

The disappearance of all the reparations which Germany agreed to pay by the settlement of the accounts of the French, British, and Belgian armies in Germany. This would mean that no money paid by Germany up to this time can be used for the real purpose of reconstruction.

The remission of Belgium's priority rights to end in 1922 or later.

The probable rise of a demand in France and Belgium for the withdrawal of the American troops at Coblenz, because politically those countries can no longer be of use to France and Belgium, and because economically their presence is disastrous.

The American claim amounts to about \$241,000,000, or about 1,020,000,000 gold marks. The total cash balance of the American government up to December 31 was 1,041,000,000 marks. The receipts during 1922 are (Continued on Page 2, Column 1.)

SAVED FROM NIAGARA. Two Boys Floating on Cake of Ice Toward Falls Rescued.

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., March 13.—John and Edward Ball, brothers, aged sixteen and thirteen years, respectively, were rescued by boatmen yesterday from a cake of ice in the Niagara river about a mile above the falls, as they were being borne down stream toward the cataract.

The boys had been playing on the ice when the ice broke away and floated into the river.

Charles Ball, brother of the boys, was not with them when they were rescued, but he had been playing on the ice when it broke away and floated into the river.

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